

CLAIMS

1. A method for producing a tantalum or niobium powder in which a metal salt containing tantalum or niobium is reduced in a diluent salt to obtain a tantalum or
5 niobium powder,
wherein the total percentage of moisture in the metal salt and the diluent salt is 0.2% by mass or less as determined by the Karl Fisher method based on an amount of moisture generated by heating the metal salt and the diluent salt to 600°C.
- 10 2. A method for producing tantalum or niobium powder according to claim 1, wherein the diluent salt is potassium fluoride or a mixture containing potassium fluoride, and the moisture percentage in potassium fluoride alone is 0.15% by mass or less, as determined by the Karl Fisher method.
- 15 3. A method for producing tantalum or niobium powder according to claim 1, wherein the diluent salt is potassium chloride or a mixture containing potassium chloride, and the moisture percentage in potassium chloride alone is 0.05% by mass or less, as determined by the Karl Fisher method.
- 20 4. A method for producing tantalum or niobium powder according to claim 1, wherein the metal salt is tantalum potassium fluoride, and the moisture percentage in tantalum potassium fluoride alone is 0.1% by mass or less, as determined by the Karl Fisher method.
- 25 5. A method for producing tantalum or niobium powder according to claim 1,

wherein the metal salt is niobium potassium fluoride, and the moisture percentage in potassium fluoride alone is 0.1% by mass or less, as determined by the Karl Fisher method.

5 6. An anode for an electrolytic capacitor comprising the metal powder produced by the method of claim 1.

7. A method for evaluating a metal salt containing tantalum or niobium used for producing a tantalum or niobium powder, wherein a moisture percentage in a metal salt is
10 measured based on an amount of moisture which is generated by heating the metal salt to 600°C or more.

8. A method for evaluating a diluent salt used for producing a tantalum or niobium powder, wherein a moisture percentage in a diluent salt is measured based on an amount
15 of moisture which is generated by heating the diluent salt to 600°C or more.